

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A three-dimensional textile composite structure with energy-absorbing capacities under multiple impacts, comprising:

a base, and

at least one progressively collapsible projection extending from the base for absorbing energies under the multiple impacts,

wherein the projection includes a non-woven textile material supported in a thermoplastic matrix material, and wherein the projection includes rings which are progressively formed along its sidewall under the multiple impacts such that the projection is capable of retaining energy-absorption capacity at least after the first impact of the multiple impacts.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The structure of claim 1, wherein the projection has a conical sidewall and a generally flat top ~~a grid-domed shape~~.

Claim 3. (original) The structure of claim 1, wherein the non-woven textile material is made from staple fibers with a random orientation.

Claim 4. (original) The structure of claim 3, wherein the staple fibers have a low level of anisotropy in mechanical properties.

Claim 5. (original) The structure of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic matrix material has a melting temperature lower than the no-woven textile material.

Claim 6. (original) The structure of claim 1, wherein the non-woven textile material is impregnated with the thermoplastic matrix material by the following steps:

laminating a layer of the thermoplastic matrix material with a layer of the non-woven textile material;

heating the laminate to a processing temperature higher than the melting temperature of the thermoplastic matrix material but lower than the melting temperature of the non-woven textile material; and

applying pressure to the heated laminate for impregnating the non-woven textile material with the melted thermoplastic matrix material.

Claims 7 – 17 (cancelled)